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COUNTRY East Germany REPORT                     

TOPIC Military Activity in the Northern Portion of the Soviet Zone

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EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     

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DATE OF CONTENT                     

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DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 23 September 1954REFERENCES                     PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS This is UNEVALUATED  
Information

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1. On 10 September 1954, a shipment of 6 x 37-mm AA guns, and 20 to 25 trucks arrived at the Dallgow-Doebritz railroad station and was unloaded. The unloading was completed at 0300 on 11 September. 1

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2. At 1130 on 6 September, 6 x 76.2-mm AA guns, about 12 trucks                      and 3 field kitchens passed over the northern road bridge in Magdeburg and proceeded eastward. 2  
At 0620 on 13 September, 2 trucks carrying billeting equipment, one of which had                      1 field kitchen and a DUKW-353-type amphibious vehicle went west. At about 1215, trucks                      towing field kitchens passed through Schermen and proceeded toward Magdeburg on the Burg-Magdeburg road. In the evening on 13 September, the Seeckt Kaserne (5287) in Magdeburg was heavily occupied. The installation was fully lighted. 3

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3. At 1630 on 11 September, a shipment of 10 x 20-mm AA guns, 5 armored personnel carriers and approximately 50 trucks                      passed through the Magdeburg-Westerhuesen railroad station and proceeded southward. 4

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4. At 0615 on 13 September, a train carrying 5 motorboats, 1 crane truck, 27 trucks with TMP-steel pontoons and 7 trucks with equipment passed over the northern railroad bridge in Magdeburg and proceeded eastward. At 0920, the train was followed by a shipment of 23 trucks, 1 crane truck and 21 boxcars including some occupied by personnel. 3

5. On 13 September, the Panzer Kaserne (5061) in Burg was occupied by only a rear detail. Motor vehicle and tank sheds observed were vacant. 5

6. On 11 September, individual trucks with women and billeting equipment were seen en route toward Magdeburg throughout the day. The trucks came from the direction of Born in Letzling Heath. 6

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7. Between 21 August and 16 September, the Schweinrich area at the Wittstock troop training grounds was still occupied. No troops left the area during the period mentioned.
  8. On 14 September, the Schweinrich cantonment at the Wittstock troop training grounds was heavily occupied. Officers and EM and many Soviet women and children were seen in the camp. Several trucks with officers, women, children and billeting equipment left the camp toward Schweinrich. Marksmanship with small arms was practiced at the firing ranges. Two 57-mm AT guns were observed being cleaned.
  9. It was learned that the units from Camp Schweinrich at the Wittstock training grounds had not yet left for exercises on 13 September. The units of the Perleberg post were reportedly to return in early October. The hospital was expected to return to Perleberg on or after 19 September. During the preceding years, the hospital returned to the post about 2 weeks earlier than the units. Beginning in early September, almost all dependents of Soviet officers returned to Perleberg from the Wittstock training grounds.<sup>7</sup>
  10. On 31 August, several railroad cars carrying 12 to 14 x 120-mm mortars, 14 to 16 x 122-mm field howitzers and a few trucks were seen on the spur track of the Fliegerhorst Kaserne (5342) in Perleberg. The equipment allegedly belonged to units from the installation which were to leave for a short-term loading practice in the vicinity of the post. 8
1. Comment. For information on the return of light AAA units of the 1st Mech Div from Altengrabow, [redacted]
  2. Comment. [redacted] the vehicles may have belonged to units of the 3d Gds AAA Div which returned to their post.
  3. Comment. It is possible that this engineer shipment went to the Guesen area northeast of Burg, to which elements of the unidentified engineer regiment of the GSFG from Sperenberg transferred in 2 shipments on 11 September. [redacted] It is undetermined, whether the movements were made in connection with the scheduled fall maneuvers in the Burg-Genthin area or with engineer exercises on the Elbe River in the Guesen area. For indications of the first mentioned exercises [redacted]. The motor vehicle [redacted] belong to the 36th Panzer Bridge Regt of the GSFG.
  4. Comment. [redacted] the train carried light AAA units of the 20th Gds Mech Div from Jena which probably returned to their post from Altengrabow. Units of this division had been observed at the Altengrabow training grounds as late as 9 September. [redacted]
  5. Comment. The information indicates that the 136th Gds Hvy Tank SP Regt of the Third Shock Army was stationed at Letzling Heath until mid-September.

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6. Comment. The movements are believed to have been connected with the beginning of the school for Soviet children in Magdeburg. 25X1
7. Comment. Prior to mid-September, the bulk of the 18th Mech Div was stationed at the Wittstock training grounds as previously. 25X1  
According to paragraph 9, units of the division are expected to return to their winter quarters in early October. For information on the return of Soviet dependents, see Field Comment 6. 25X1
8. Comment. According to weapons observed, units of the 1054th How Arty Regt and the 592d Mort Regt of the 18th Mech Div were entrained. The presence of the troops at the post at that time is unusual but appears possible in view of the following: Observations at posts of the 10th Gds Tank Div and the 12th Gds Tank Div tended to indicate that, since late June, the mortar regiments in the zone were being reequipped. Since field howitzers which arrived from the USSR were observed with the abovementioned divisions, it was assumed that the medium units of the mortar regiments were reorganized into field howitzer battalions and had to turn in their former equipment. The observation of these two types of weapons in one shipment may indicate that this reequipment also involved the mortar regiment of the 18th Mech Div which possibly returned to the post in connection with this measure. 25X1

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